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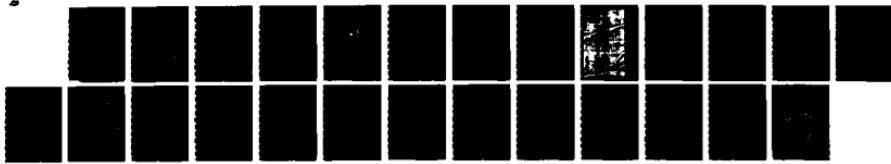
A REPORT ON THE INTENSIVE CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY  
OF THE PROPOSED FL (U) NORTH DAKOTA UNIV  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GRAND FORKS D D KUEHN APR 84

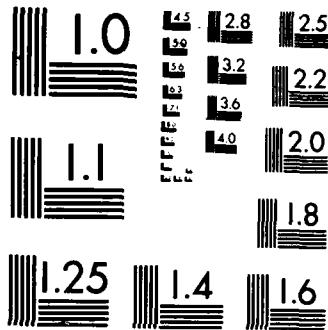
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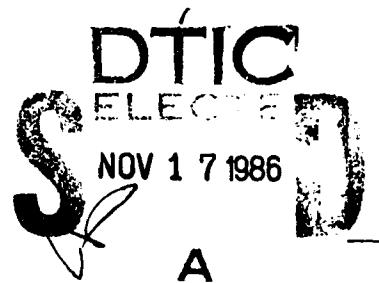
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A REPORT ON THE INTENSIVE  
CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY OF THE  
PROPOSED FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT AT  
ARGUSVILLE, NORTH DAKOTA

by  
David D. Kuehn  
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Prepared for  
St. Paul District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
1135 U.S.P.O. and Custom House  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101



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<p>An intensive cultural resources inventory was performed on a proposed flood control project at Argusville, North Dakota, in order to determine whether significant cultural resources were present. Approximately 9500 feet of levees and four ponding areas will be constructed to prevent future flooding of the Argusville community. No cultural resource material was recovered other than a small concentration of burned bone of uncertain origin. No further archaeological work is recommended.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ELE</p>			
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### Abstract

An intensive cultural resources inventory was performed on a proposed flood control project at Argusville, North Dakota (Section 6, T141N, R49W). The investigations were conducted on November 15, 1983, in order to determine whether significant cultural resources were present within the project area. Approximately 9500 feet of levees and four ponding areas will be constructed to prevent future flooding of the Argusville community. The on-the-ground survey was accomplished by two investigators walking parallel transects across all areas of proposed construction. A small concentration of burned bone was located in a plowed field at the site of a proposed ponding area. The origin of the bone is uncertain, but does not appear to represent a National Register eligible property. No other cultural resources were encountered and no further archaeological work is recommended.

### Introduction

On November 15, 1983, an intensive cultural resources inventory was undertaken at Argusville, North Dakota by personnel from University of North Dakota Archaeological Research (UNDAR). The inventory was conducted by David D. Kuehn, Associate Research Archaeologist, and Raymond Krueger, Archaeological Assistant (for resumes see Appendix B).

The project, located in Section 6, T141N, R49W, Cass County, North Dakota, will consist of approximately 9500 feet of levee construction and four ponding areas, totalling approximately 12 acres (Figure 1). Procedures used during the inventory were in compliance with the scope of work furnished by the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, through contract number DACW37-84-M-0197 (Appendix A).

The primary purpose of the inventory was to determine the presence or

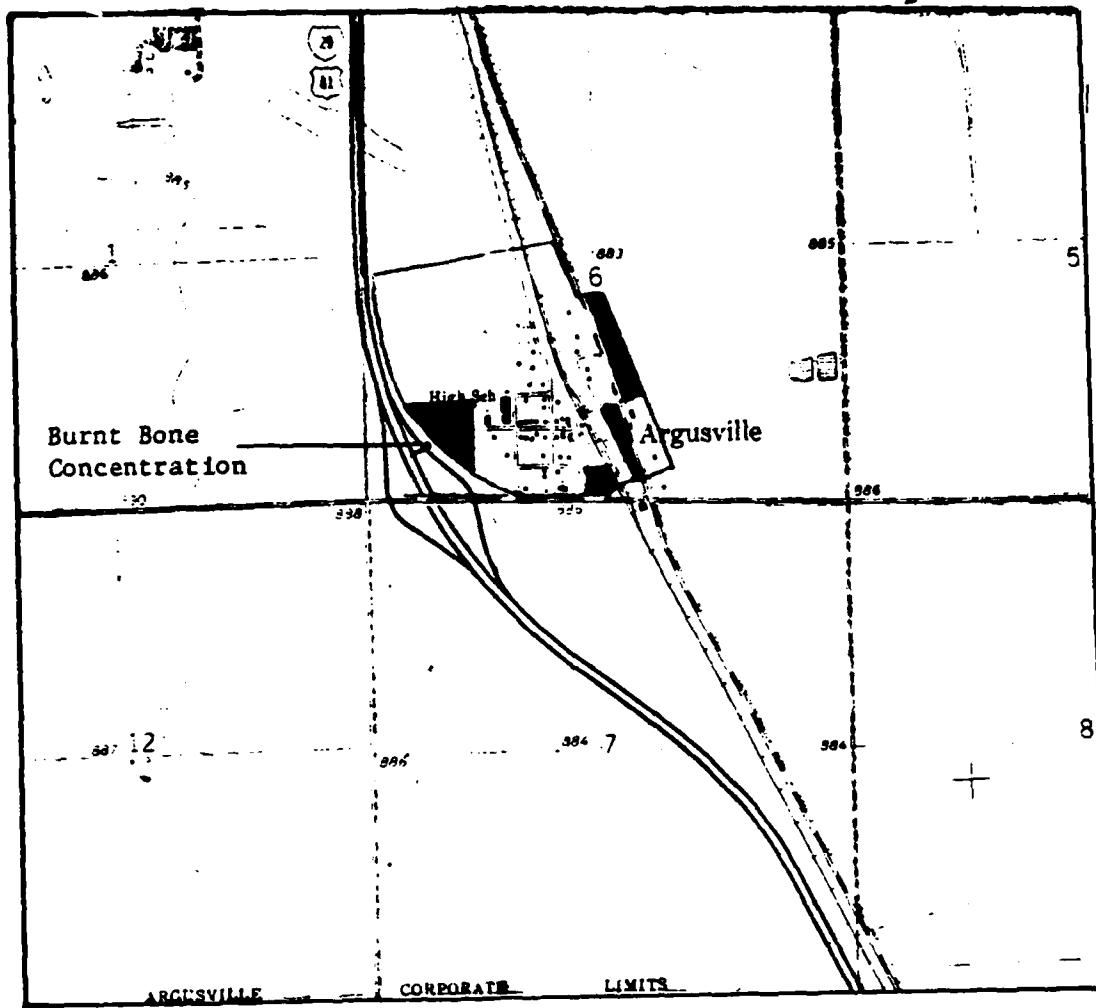


Figure 1. Argusville flood control project showing levees and ponding areas.  
Map source, U.S.G.S. Argusville Quad, 7.5', 1963.



absence of cultural resources within the project boundaries. Equally important was assessment of the significance of recorded cultural resources, as well as potential impacts from construction activity.

#### Project Setting

The Argusville flood control project is situated in the Red River Valley district of the Central Lowland physiographic province (Bluemle 1977). The Red River Valley is composed of lacustrine sediments of glacial Lake Agassiz, which acted as a reservoir for Late Wisconsin glacial meltwater. The Red River Valley is an extremely flat lake bed which is located in eastern North Dakota, western Minnesota, and southern Manitoba. The Red River flows northward through the center of the Valley but is not responsible for its formation (Bluemle 1977:8,9).

The Argusville project area is situated approximately 9.6 km west of the Red River and approximately 9.8 km northwest of the confluence of the Red and Sheyenne Rivers (Figure 1). Less than .9 m of elevational relief is present in the project area, and no appreciable drainages are evident within a several km radius. Soil is predominately lacustrine clay and silty clay loam. Most of the project area has been cultivated, exhibiting fallow fields and sunflower stubble. Native flora is rare and is limited to prairie grasses along road ditches. Current fauna includes white-tailed deer, cottontail, racoon, fox, skunk, and squirrel (Michlovic 1982a). The low topographic relief and lack of surface water sources result in low prehistoric site probability.

#### Background

A files search was conducted by Sally Dockter at the offices of the State Historical Society of North Dakota. The files search was made using the site files, site lead files, and historic site files. The search indicated that

no previously recorded prehistoric sites or archaeological surveys are known for the project area. A school house was recorded in the general vicinity in 1978 during the REAP study (Regional Environmental Assessment Program). In addition, the Argusville townsite is listed in the Andreas Historical Atlas of Dakota 1884. The proposed flood control project will not impact either the school or townsite.

Few professional archaeological investigations have been conducted in this portion of the Red River Valley. A survey of burial mounds in the Minnesota side of the Valley was conducted by Theodore Lewis in the late 1800's (Johnson 1962:157). Sporadic excavations in the Valley were undertaken in the 1930's and 1940's by Albert Jenks and Lloyd Wilford (Johnson 1962:157). Jenks (1932) reported on the earlier excavations at the Arvilla mound site. Sites in the Red River Valley were included in cultural chronological sequences presented by Wilford (1941, 1943, 1955) and Wedel (1961). The Arvilla complex was formally discussed by Johnson (1973), who relied heavily on Jenks' and Wilford's earlier field notes (Syms 1982:140). A three year program of survey and excavation in the Valley was conducted by the University of Minnesota from 1959-1962. Included were excavations at the Haarstad site east of Argyle, Minnesota (Johnson 1962). Recent archaeological and physical anthropological work on the Red River Valley includes Michlovic (1982a) (1982b), the Minnesota Historical Society (1981), Syms (1982), and Williams (1982).

Almost all of the sites investigated in the Red River Valley date to the Woodland tradition. Recently, excavations at a site near Halstad, Minnesota revealed a deeply buried component that may be Archaic in age (Mike Michlovic, personal communication, 1983). The Woodland tradition is generally distinguished from the Archaic by the appearance of ceramics and burial mounds. Within the Red River Valley the majority of ceramic bearing sites are from

the Late Woodland period, which dates from ca. A.D. 700-1400 (cf. Syms 1982: 163).

The cultural/taxonomic sequence of the Late Woodland in the Red River Valley is poorly understood. Many of the sites excavated earlier were assigned to the Arvilla complex (Wilford 1941, 1955; Johnson 1973). Arvilla, however, has proven difficult to study and characterize due to inconsistent data recovery, problems with biological relationships, and the concentration of excavations at burial sites (cf. Syms 1982).

Aside from the problematical Arvilla complex, many Late Woodland sites in the Red River Valley contain Sandy Lake ceramics (cf. Michlovic 1982b). East of the Red River Valley, in Minnesota, Sandy Lake ware is dated from ca. A.D. 1000 to 1750 (Anfinson 1979). Virtually all of the sites excavated to date are located along major water sources. As a result, little information is available from large portions of the Red River Valley.

#### Field Methods

As specified in the scope of work, a 100 ft wide area was surveyed along the north side of the existing levee where it runs east to west, and along the east side where it runs north to south (Figure 2). This was accomplished by the two investigators walking a single transect spaced approximately 15 m apart. In the remaining portions of the project a 200 ft wide corridor was surveyed, 100 ft on either side of the centerline of the proposed new levees. The 200 ft wide corridor was surveyed by walking two parallel transects 15 m apart. In addition, four ponding areas within the levee perimeter were intensively surveyed by walking a series of north-south transects at 15 m intervals (Figure 2).

The project was not staked during the time of the inventory, however large-scale aerial photographs were provided by the Corps of Engineers. The

0" TO 12" WIDE INSPECTION TRENCH, BACKFILLED, COMPACTED TO  
DENSITY OF EXISTING GROUND. FOR H=6', D=6'.  
FOR H>6', D>6'.

TYPICAL LEVEE SECTION  
(PROPOSED)

LEGEND:  
— RAISE EXISTING LEVEE  
— NEW LEVEE  
.... FLOODWALL  
// / INTERIOR FLOOD CONTROL  
POND

SCALE 1" = 300'

N



Figure 2. Aerial photo of Argusville flood control project, showing existing and proposed levees. Photo source, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

proposed levees and ponding areas were clearly marked on the aerials, facilitating accurate on-the-ground inspection. Surface visibility was adequate throughout the entire project area, the majority of which was located in plowed fields.

### Results

No historic or prehistoric sites were located during the Argusville flood control inventory. The only evidence of previous cultural activity observed, in addition to obvious farming, was a small area containing fragmented mammal bone. Approximately 20 small burnt bone fragments (less than 2 cm in diameter), were located in a plowed field west of a football field within the boundaries of proposed pond A1 (Figure 2). In spite of good surface visibility no historic or prehistoric artifacts were observed in association with the bone. As a result, the function or age of the bone is unknown and site designation will not be given. Considering the proximity of the bone to the town of Argusville, an argument can be made that it is relatively recent (i.e. historic). This argument is somewhat supported by the natural setting of the area, which exhibits very low prehistoric site probability.

### Recommendations

Since no prehistoric or historic sites were observed in the project area, and due to the probability that the observed bone concentration is a recent surface deposit, archaeological clearance is recommended for the Argusville project. Surface visibility was good and the project setting is not considered conducive to prehistoric site location. Construction of the proposed levees and ponding areas will not impact potentially significant cultural resources.

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APPENDIX A:  
Corps of Engineers Scope of Work

**Scope of Work  
Cultural Resources Investigation  
at Argusville, North Dakota, Cass County**

**1.00 Introduction**

**1.01** The Contractor will undertake a cultural resources investigation at Argusville, North Dakota.

**2.00 Project Area**

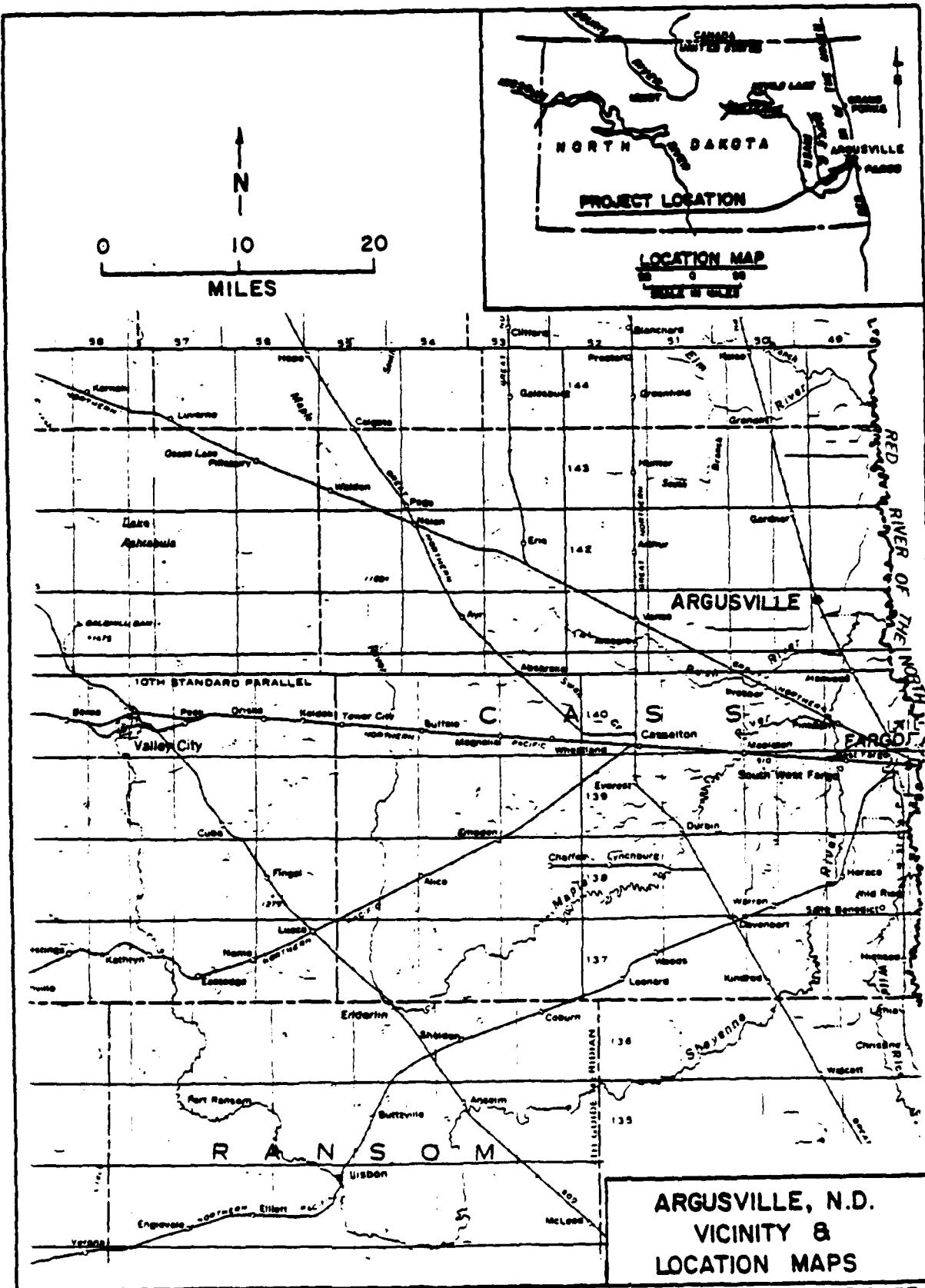
**2.01** Argusville is located in eastern Cass County, about 14 miles northwest of Fargo. The city is 3½ miles northwest of the Sheyenne River and 5½ miles west of the Red River of the North (See Figure 1).

**2.02** The proposed project consists of raising the existing levee, constructing a new levee, and associated features such as a highway raise, floodwall, and ponding areas (See Figure 2). The upgrading of the existing levee will be only on the north and east sides (moving towards Argusville), of the present levee. The new levee will be around 75 feet wide. Ditches will also be placed on the inside edge of the levees. Six feet deep inspection trenches will run along the length of the new levee to test for soil stability.

**3.00 Work Specifications**

**3.01** The Contractor will undertake the following tasks:

- a)** Conduct a literature and records search and review appropriate to the size of the proposed project. This will include a review of known recorded prehistoric, historic, standing structures, and National Register sites within the proposed project area and surrounding vicinity. The literature search and review will also include an examination of appropriate maps (e.g., GLO's), and literature in order to discover site leads; site potential; and to incorporate the prehistoric and historic literature findings in the report as background and to evaluate and analyze any sites that are discovered.
- b)** Discuss with, and rely on the expertise of, any prehistorians and historians that have worked in the study area or region. For prehistory, Michael Michlovic of Moorhead State University should be telephoned and visited if possible. Michael will provide information to the researcher that is imperative to understanding the Red River valley, its prehistory, and field methodology necessary to conduct an adequate survey.
- c)** Conduct a 100 percent pedestrian reconnaissance survey of the proposed project. For the upgrading of the existing levee and the proposed floodwall area, 100 feet on the north and/or east sides of the levee and floodwall will be surveyed. 100 feet on each side of the centerline for the new levee will be surveyed. All ponding areas will be surveyed. The area of the highway raise will be surveyed. See Figure 2 for these locations.
- d)** If prehistoric or historic sites are located, each will be investigated to determine site size, depth, number of components



(buried components?), condition, possible cultural affiliation, and potential or probable National Register significance (See also section 4.07). This preliminary site investigation will be conducted with some form of subsurface testing. Shovel tests, coring, formal test units, or a combination can be used. It is imperative that if sites are found, we know enough about them to evaluate what we are going to do about them, and how much money and time may be necessary. Because of the potential for intact buried sites to be located anywhere from 40 cm below the surface to at least 6 feet deep, creative testing methodologies will have to be employed to determine site potential at these depths. A geologist or geomorphologist should be consulted on the geomorphology and potential soils in the project area that may yield sites. John Foss, of North Dakota State University, who has worked closely with Mike Michlovic, is a recommendation.

- d) The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed project will be assessed, and recommendations for project alignment changes and/or future cultural resources work will be developed.
- e) Each site investigated will be thoroughly described and the methodology and literature work employed to investigate each site will be discussed. All sites will be evaluated for their potential significance, and their placement in the patterns and processes of Red River valley prehistory and history.
- f) A report will be prepared according to the specifications listed in section 6.00.

#### 4.00 PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATIONS

4.01 The Contractor will utilize a systematic, interdisciplinary approach in conducting the study. The Contractor will provide specialized knowledge and skills during the course of the study to include expertise in archaeology, history, architectural history, and other social and natural sciences as required.

4.02 The extent and character of the work to be accomplished by the Contractor will be subject to the general supervision, direction, control, review and approval of the Contracting Officer.

4.03 Techniques and methodologies that the Contractor uses during the investigation shall be representative of the current state of knowledge for the respective disciplines.

4.04 The Contractor shall keep standard records which shall include, but not be limited to, field notebooks, site survey forms, field maps, and photographs. These records will be made available to the Contracting Officer upon request.

4.05 The tested areas will be returned as closely as practical to presurvey conditions by the Contractor.

4.06 The recommended professional treatment of recovered materials is curation and storage of the artifacts at an institution that can properly insure their preservation and that will make them available for research and public view. If such materials are not in Federal ownership, the Contractor must obtain consent of the owner, in accordance with applicable law, concerning the disposition of the materials after completion of the report. The Contractor will be responsible for making curatorial arrangements for any collections which are obtained. Such arrangements must be coordinated with the appropriate officials of South Dakota and Minnesota, and approved by the Contracting Officer.

4.07 When sites are not wholly contained within Corps of Engineer property, the Contractor shall survey an area outside the property limits large enough to include the entire site within the survey area. This procedure shall be done in an effort to delineate site boundaries and to determine the degree to which the site will be impacted.

4.08 The Contractor shall provide all materials and equipment necessary to expeditiously perform all services required of the study.

4.09 If it becomes necessary in the performance of the work and services, the Contractor shall, at no cost to the Government, secure the rights of ingress and egress on properties not owned or controlled by the Government. The Contractor shall secure the consent of the owner, his representative, or agent, in writing prior to effecting entry on such property. Where a landowner denies permission for survey, the Contractor shall immediately notify the Contracting Officer and shall describe the extent of the property to be excluded from the survey.

4.10 Neither the Contractor nor his representative shall release any sketch, photograph, report, or other material of any nature obtained or prepared under the contract without specific written approval of the Contracting Officer prior to the acceptance of the final report by the Government. After the Contracting Officer has accepted the final report, distribution will not be restricted by either party except that data relating to the specific location of extant sites will be deleted in distributions to the public.

#### 5.00 Materials Provided

5.01 The Contracting Officer will furnish the Contractor with the following materials:

- a) Access to any publications, records, maps, or photographs that are on file at the St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers.
- b) Two sets of USGS Quadrangle maps of the project area. One set will be used as field maps, and one set will be returned with the appropriate information (See Section 8.01d).
- c) Two sets of all project maps and photographs. One set will be used as field maps, and one set will be returned with the appropriate information (See Section 8.01d).

#### 6.00 Report Specifications

6.01 The draft and final contract reports will include the following:

- a) Background information on the project and records check, prehistory, protohistory, history, and environmental information that is pertinent to the study (no report filler please- make it applicable).
- b) Exact field methodology of where and what you did and why.
- c) Results of fieldwork including any necessary analysis, interpretation, and conclusions.
- d) Discussion of project impacts and recommendations.
- e) The exact locations of all proposed project features, the survey transects and all test locations (shovel, auger, formal), will be placed on a well drafted map or quad map and on the aerial photographs. Also the report will include all shovel, auger, and formal testing forms (test number, location, depth, stratigraphy, level sheets, etc.). All sites will be located on the maps and photographs, with their site boundaries and relationship to the proposed project illustrated.
- f) Any site forms and National Register forms will be filled out and included as a report appendix.
- g) All project field notes will be included as a report appendix.

Basically what is needed is exactly where you went, what you did, the results, conclusions, and recommendations, with maps, photographs, and supporting data. The report could be short or lengthly depending on what you find.

#### 7.00 Format Specifications

7.01 The Contractor shall submit to the Contracting Officer the photographic negatives for all photographs in the final report.

7.02 All text materials will be typed, single-spaced (the draft report should be space-and-one-half or double-spaced), on good quality bond paper, 8.5 inches by 11.0 inches, with a 1.5-inch binding margin on the left, 1-inch margins on the top and right, and a 1.5-inch margin at the bottom, and will be printed on both sides of the paper.

7.03 Information will be presented in textual, tabular, and graphic forms, whichever are most appropriate, effective, or advantageous to communicate the necessary information.

7.04 All figures and maps must be clear, legible, self-explanatory, and of sufficiently high quality to be readily reproducible by standard xerographic equipment, and will have margins as defined above.

7.05 The draft and final reports will be divided into easily discernible chapters, with appropriate page separation and heading.

#### 8.00 Submittals

8.01 The Contractor will submit reports according to the following schedules:

- a) Draft Contract Report: 6 copies of the draft contract report will

be submitted on or before 15 December 1983. The draft contract report will be reviewed by the Corps of Engineers, the State Historic Preservation Officer, the State Archeologist, and the National Park Service. The draft contract report will be submitted according to the report and contract specifications outlined in this scope of work.

b) Final Contract Report: The original and 15 copies of the final contract report will be submitted 30 days after the Corps of Engineers comments on the draft contract report are received by the Contractor. The final contract report will incorporate all the comments made on the draft contract report.

c) Site and National Register Forms: All newly completed and updated State and National Register forms will be submitted to the appropriate State agency.

d) Maps: One copy of the quad map and the aerial photographs will be submitted separately to the COE with all site locations, boundaries, and survey and testing transects and tests located.

#### 9.00 Method of Payment

9.01 Requests for partial payment under this cost reimbursable contract shall be made monthly by sending in an invoice, with a description of the work accomplished to date. A 10-percent retained percentage will be withheld from each partial payment. Upon approval of the final contract report by the Contracting Officer, final payment, including previously retained percentage, shall be made.

9.02 The Contractor may also wait until the final contract report has been approved by the Contracting Officer, and then request payment of the contract in full.

**APPENDIX B:**  
**Vitae of Key Personnel**

VITA

David D. Kuehn  
Department of Anthropology and Archaeology  
University of North Dakota  
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58202

Telephone: 701-777-3008  
Born: Elgin, North Dakota  
November 25, 1952

EDUCATION

B.A., Anthropology, University of North Dakota, 1974  
M.A., Anthropology/Archaeology, Northern Arizona University, 1981

RESEARCH AND FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

1981-present Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of North Dakota. Associate Research Archaeologist. Project Director and Co-Principal Investigator on several University research projects. Supervision of all aspects of field laboratory, and office work. Current projects include: Archeological Data Recovery at Midipadi Butte, 32DU2, Dunn County, North Dakota, and Test Excavations at the Tysver-Olson site, 32DU605, Dunn County, North Dakota. Current research interests include Plains Archaic and geomorphology.

1979-1981 Powers Elevation Company. District Archaeologist-Williston, North Dakota District. Supervised and managed contract archaeology program in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Eastern Montana. Worked closely with Federal, State, and Corporate Authorities. Conducted numerous cultural resource inventories and testing programs.

1979 U.S.D.A. Custer National Forest. District Archeologist-McKenzie District, North Dakota. Conducted cultural resource inventories in the Little Missouri National Grasslands. Administered private contract reports. Designed site avoidance, protection, and mitigation programs.

1979-1978 U.S.D.A. Coconino National Forest, Arizona. Archeologist. Supervised and conducted numerous intensive and sample surface inventories. Trained new archeological assistants in survey, excavation, and artifact analysis. Participated in excavations in Eldon Pueblo, Arizona.

1977-1978 Museum of Northern Arizona. Assistant Supervisory Archaeologist. Grey Mountain Site Data Recovery Project-performed artifact collection, plane table mapping, lithic analysis, and report preparation. Salt River Project-assisted in development of research design for lithic analysis. Performed extensive lithic analysis.

1977-1976 U.S.D.A. Coconino National Forest, Arizona. Archeological Assistant. Performed archeological survey, excavation, ceramic and lithic analysis, report preparation.

1976      Museum of Northern Arizona, work-study student. Assisted in lithic processing, Cedar-Mesa Project.

1974      University of North Dakota Archaeological Research, crew member. Performed survey of McClusky Canal-Garrison Diversion Project. Archaeological survey of James River Bank Stabilization Project. Assisted in excavation of stone circles and bison kill site.

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1983      A report on the intensive cultural resources inventory of the proposed flood control project at Argusville, North Dakota. Report submitted to the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by University of North Dakota Archaeological Research, Grand Forks.

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Hartman, Dana S. and David D. Kuehn

1978 Archaeological survey of Salt River Project, Coronado Transmission Line, Final Report. Report on file at Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.

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Kuehn, David D.

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